

Appl. No. 10/092,347
Amdt. dated November 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 26, 2005

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A rights management architecture system for securely delivering content to authorized consumers, the architecture system comprising:
 - a content provider;
 - a consumer system configured for requesting content from the content provider
[(:)] , wherein the content provider is configured for generating a session rights object for accessing the content;
 - a [[KDC (J) key distribution center (D)]] configured for providing authorization data to the consumer system, ~~the authorization data~~ for use in accessing the content; and
 - a caching server configured for comparing information in the session rights object with the authorization data [[: and
 - the]] , wherein the caching server is configured for forwarding the requested content to the consumer system if the information matches the authorization data, and wherein the caching server and the consumer system are configured to exchange a plurality of encrypted control messages to be used in transferring the requested content.
2. (Currently Amended) The architecture system of claim 1 wherein the consumer system is redirected to the caching server to receive the requested content.
3. (Currently Amended) The architecture system of claim 1 wherein the caching server and the content provider are combined into a single system identified.

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4. (Currently Amended) The architecture system of claim 1 wherein the caching server employs real time streaming for securely forwarding the encrypted content.

5. (Currently Amended) The architecture system of claim 1 wherein the requested content is encrypted for forwarding to the consumer system.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The architecture system of claim 6 1 wherein the control messages are ~~encrypted and~~ authenticated.

8. (Currently Amended) The architecture system of claim 5 wherein the caching server comprises one or more cache disks for storing encrypted content.

9. (Currently Amended) The architecture system of claim 5 wherein the KDC key distribution center distributes cryptographic keys, the KDC key distribution center employing a blend of symmetric and public algorithms for distributing the cryptographic keys.

10. (Currently Amended) The architecture system of claim 5 further comprising wherein a key management protocol is used for establishing keys between the caching server and the consumer system.

11. (Currently Amended) The architecture system of claim 10 wherein the key management protocol comprises:

a key request message for requesting a session key from the caching server; and

responsive thereof, a key reply message for providing the session key to the consumer system.

12. (Currently Amended) The architecture system of claim 11 wherein:

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the session rights object and the authorization data are included in the key request message;

~~wherein~~ the caching server ~~compares~~ is configured to compare information in the session rights object to the authorization data; and

if the information matches the authorization data, the session key ~~being~~ is provided to the consumer system.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~architecture system~~ of claim 12 wherein the content provider ~~generates~~ is configured to generate the session rights object specifying the user's access privileges for the content.

14. (Currently Amended) A rights management method for securely delivering content upon request from a caching server, the method comprising:

providing the caching server comprising a key distribution server;

providing a content provider ~~communicably~~ comprising a key distribution client, the content provider communicatively coupled to the [[a]] caching server;

providing a key management protocol comprising the steps of,

forwarding a ticket challenge message from the caching server to the content provider, the challenge message for initiating key management;

responsive thereof, sending a key request message which includes a caching server ticket, from the content provider to the caching server;

responsive thereof, sending a key reply message from the caching server to the content provider;

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responsive thereof, sending a security established message from the content provider to the caching server; and

establishing a set of keys for securely delivering content from the content provider to the caching server.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
providing a consumer system for streaming content from the caching server.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
providing a key distribution center for establishing trust between the caching server and the content provider.

17. (Currently Amended) A rights management method for securely pre-positioning content at a caching server, the method comprising:

providing a caching server;

providing a content provider ~~communicably~~ communicatively coupled to the
[[a]] caching server;

providing a key management protocol comprising the steps of,

forwarding a key request message from the content provider to the caching server,
the key request message for initiating key management;

responsive thereof, sending a key reply message from the caching server to the
content provider; and

establishing a set of keys for securely delivering content from the content provider
to the caching server.

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18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 further comprising:
providing a consumer system for streaming content from the caching server.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 further comprising:
providing a key distribution center for establishing trust between the caching
server and the content provider.

20. (Currently Amended) An authentication system allowing an authorized
user to stream content from a caching server within a computing network, the system
comprising:

the caching server;

a content provider configured for providing the content to the caching server for
access by the user;

a key distribution center configured for:

receiving from the content provider [[.]] a first request to access the
caching server, and if authenticated the content provider delivers the content to the caching
server; and

~~the key distribution center~~ receiving from the user [[.]] a second request to
access the caching server; and if authenticated the user is allowed to stream the content from the
caching server.

21. (Original) The authentication system of claim 20 wherein the second request
is for a caching server ticket to access the caching server.

22. (Currently Amended) A ~~protocol~~ method for securing data transfer
between components of a communication network, the method comprising:

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- a) providing a central server having a database;
- b) publishing content metadata from a content provider to the central server;
- c) providing a billing center server, communicably coupled to the central server;
- d) reporting billing information from a caching server to the billing center server;
- e) providing a provisioning database, coupled to the central server;
- f) updating the provisioning database with consumer information; and
- g) using a key management protocol to securely transfer data during any one or more of step b), step d), and step f).

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~protocol~~ method of claim 22 wherein the key management protocol comprises:

- forwarding a key request message for requesting a session key; and
- receiving a key reply message for providing a session key.

24. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the key management protocol is further employed to allow a user to securely receive content from the caching server.